

SL-1 NC-138/1

Time: 12:15 a.m. CDT, 145:03:15 GMT

3/25/73

PAO This is Skylab Launch Control. We're T minus 6 hours 30 minutes and counting in our countdown for the first manned mission in the Skylab Program. The countdown is moving along well. The cryogenic loading, which during a normal count would be going on at this time, was moved up in the countdown procedure and has actually been completed. This was done so that the crews can come back in and complete some stowage at this time. That close-out crew now is at the pad, the hatch to the command module has been opened, and the crew is inside working inside the spacecraft. We'll have one extra man on the close-out crew assisting with the stowage procedures. Weather for launch time, 9:00 a.m. this morning, is expected to be partly cloudy, winds from the southwest about 10 knots, temperature's about 78 degrees Fahrenheit at launch time. Countdown going smoothly, T minus 6 hours 29 minutes and counting, this is Kennedy Launch Control.

END OF TAPE

SL-1 NC-159/1

Time: 1:16 a.m. CDT, 145:06:15 GMT
9/25/73

PAO This is Skylab Launch Control. We're at T-5 hours 29 minutes and counting in our countdown for our first manned mission in the Skylab program. At this time the final pieces of flight equipment have arrived at the pad area. They're being taken up to the white room area, and they will be stowed in the command module. Along with the closeout crew is a flight crew equipment specialist who will assist in this stowage. Also inside the spacecraft is the astronaut member of the closeout crew, Hank Hartsfield. Also going on in the count at this time, a final antenna alignment has just been completed. During this alignment a check is made to ensure that at any automatic tracking position the antenna will track the vehicle at liftoff. Cryogenics were loaded earlier today; earlier in the count than usual so that we could do this stowage here during the final hours. Cryogenics are liquid hydrogen and liquid oxygen. Liquid oxygen the fuel for the second stage. The liquid oxygen, excuse me, is the oxidizer for the first and second stage, liquid hydrogen fuel for the second stage. These were loaded earlier. They are continued to be topped off during the count to ensure we have a full load at liftoff. They are extremely cold. There's some boiloff takes place, so it is necessary to continue topping them. This topping off is terminated during the final countdown sequence. The countdown moving along smoothly. T-5 hours 27 minutes and counting. This is Kennedy Launch Control.

END OF TAPE

SL-1 MC-160/1

Time: 02:07 a.m. CDT, 145:07:07 GET

5/25/73

PAO

This is Skylab Launch Control we're at T minus 4 hours 37 minutes and counting in our countdown for the launch in the first manned mission in the Skylab program. At this time Astronaut Hank Hartsfield, the astronaut member of the closeout crew is in the command module. He's working with test controllers going over some attitude command check. Also in the spacecraft at this time is a crew equipment specialist who is assisting in the stowage of the thermal shields. Cryogenic topping continues. Cryogenics were loaded earlier in the countdown. The weather for 9 o'clock launch this morning continues to look satisfactory. Just coming into the firing room here at launch complex 39 is Astronaut Bob Crippen. He will be the astronaut communicator here in the firing room, talking to the crew once they get into the command module. Countdown has moved along well. Cryogenic loading completed early as planned to afford some extra time for stowing this special thermal shield equipment. Now T minus 4 hours 36 minutes and counting this is Kennedy Launch Control.

END OF TAPE

SL-1 NC-161/1

Time: 03:02 a.m. CDT, 145:08:02 CET

5/25/73

PAO This is Skylab Launch Control we're at T minus 3 hours 42 minutes and counting. Countdown continuing to go smoothly. We've received word now that the flight crew Commander Pete Conrad, Science Pilot Joseph Kerwin, Pilot Paul Weitz have been alerted and are on their way for a brief physical examination at this time. At pad B complex 39 stowage is underway of the thermal shield devices. It's estimated now that this stowage should finish up about 1/2 hour from this time. Also Astronaut Hank Hartsfield the astronaut member of the closeout crew is in the spacecraft. He's been going through a extensive switch checklist with the test conductor in the manned spacecraft operations building spacecraft control room. Cryogenics were loaded earlier in the count, continue to be topped off and that topping off will continue down to the final minute of the countdown. Weather for lift-off time is predicted to be fair, favorable for launch at 9 a.m. this morning. Partly cloudy weather is expected. Surface winds southwest 10 knots and temperatures are expected to be approximately 78 degrees at launch time. T minus 3 hours 41 minutes and counting this is Kennedy Launch Control.

END OF TAPE

SL-1 MC-162/1

Time: 03:15 a.m. CDT, 145:08:15 GET
3/25/73

PAO This is Skylab Launch Control we're now at the T minus 3 hour 30 minute mark in the countdown. At this time we have a planned builtin hold. This hold will last for 1 hour and 13 minutes. The hold was originally scheduled in the launch at this time or in the countdown at this time to take care of any requirements for additional time needed in fueling. This is bringing the cryogenic fuels aboard the first and second stage of the vehicle. Actually this cryogenic fueling was completed early in the count last night to afford some extra time for stowage. That stowage is being completed at this time; that's being approximately 15 more minutes. The last item to be stowed has been moved into the spacecraft. After that is stowed the center couch which has been removed to accommodate the men doing the stowage and to be able to get to the space where the equipment is being stowed. That couch will be brought back aboard. It takes about 10 minutes to put that couch back in. We'll expect to resume the countdown at the 3 hour 30 minute mark at 5:28 a.m. At this time the astronaut crew has been alerted and has received their very brief medical examination. They'll be going on and having a short breakfast at 4:30 a.m. They are then scheduled to go to the suit room, all of this activity taking place in the Manned Spacecraft Operations Building where the crew quarters are located and where their suit room is located. They'll go to the suit room shortly after 5 and begin their suiting at that time. They are scheduled to depart the manned spacecraft operations building for the trip to the pad at 5:55 a.m. and that's about a 7 mile trip which takes about 20 minutes. They should begin entering the spacecraft at approximately 6:20 a.m. this morning. Last night shortly before the MSS was moved we did have some rain activity and some thunderstorms in the area. A minor lightning strike did hit the mobile service structure, the structure which surrounds the vehicle, gives it protection from both the elements and also environmental protection around the spacecraft. The service structure also affords access to workmen who are working on the vehicle. That structure is moved back now. It's moved back prior to cryogenic loading and will stay in its parked position through launch. Our count now in the planned hold T minus 3 hours 30 minutes and holding this is Kennedy Launch Control.

END OF TAPE

SL-1 MC-163/1

Time: 3:44 a.m. CDT, 143:08:44 GET

5/25/75

PAO This is Skylab Launch Control. We are continuing our planned hold at the T minus 3 hours and 30 minutes mark. At this time, the crew has completed their brief physical examination. Crew Commander Pete Conrad, Science Pilot Joseph Kerwin, and Pilot Paul Weitz have now proceeded down to breakfast. Following their physical examination, which was conducted by Dr. Charles Ross and Dr. Jerry Rojenksky, Dr. Royce Hawkins, the Deputy Director of Life Sciences, Johnson Space Center, reported that the crew slept well last night and they looked good. For breakfast this morning they will be joined by Alan Shepard, Chief of the Astronaut Office at Johnson Space Center, and Donald K. Slayton, Director of Flight Crew Operations at Johnson Space Center. They will be having a breakfast this morning of orange juice, steak, and scrambled eggs. Here at the launch pad the stowage of equipment aboard the command module has recently been completed and at this time the center couch, the one which will be occupied by Science Pilot Joseph Kerwin, is being reinstalled. Our countdown continuing in the planned hold period, T minus 3 hours and 40 minutes, this is Kennedy Launch Control.

END OF TAPE

SL-1 MC164/1

Time: 04:28 a.m. CDT, 143:09:28 GET

5/25/73

PAO This is Skylab Launch Control. We've now resumed our count. T minus 3 hours 29 minutes 25 seconds and counting. Just prior to resuming the count the test supervisor here in the firing room, Bill Schick, pulled various elements of the launch team. Spacecraft reported they were ready to resume. Launch vehicle ready. Superintendant arrange operations ready. Houston flight called, said they were ready for flight crew departure. That departure is scheduled approximately 55 minutes past the hour, 5:55. The safety officer reported also, safety is ready for crew ingress; that's scheduled at T minus 2 hours and 40 minutes in the count. Hank Hartsfield, the astronaut member of the closeout crew, is still in the command module. At this time he has completed reinstallation of the center couch. That couch had been taken out while the equipment was being stowed. After following reinstallation of the couch, he has been working with the spacecraft test conductor, Bob Reed, going over switch checks to verify switches have not been bumped or placed in the wrong position. Bob Reed reading off the various switches and the proper position, and Hartsfield verifying that. The prime crew, Commander Pete Conrad, Science Pilot Joseph Kerwin, and Pilot Paul Weitz at this time in the suit room suiting up. Following a breakfast with the Chief of the Astronaut Office, Alan Shepard, and Donald K. Slayton, joining them for breakfast this morning. A breakfast of steak and eggs and orange juice. Count continuing now, T minus 3 hours 27 minutes and counting. This is Kennedy Launch Control.

END OF TAPE

SL-1 NC-165/1

Time: 4:30 a.m. CDT, 145:04:53 GET

5/25/73

PAO: This is Skylab launch Control. The prime crew is now departing the Manned Spacecraft Operations Building. They are showing obvious joy at finally getting to their launch. They are entering their van, specially designed van to carry them from the Manned Spacecraft Operations Building out to the launch pad. They are accompanied by Alan Shepard, Chief of the Astronaut office, and Donald K. Slayton, Director of Flight Crew Operations at the Johnson Space Center. They are fully suited at this time, breathing on what are called portable oxygen ventilators. They'll be on these portable oxygen ventilators until they are into the cabin of the command module and plug into the oxygen system there. They have entered the van now. The van will be leaving shortly for this trip out to the pad. It's approximately 7 miles from the Manned Spacecraft Operations Building to the pad, and we expect it will take them about 20 minutes to make the trip. The countdown proceeding smoothly, T minus 3 hours 4 minutes and counting, this is Kennedy Launch Control.

END OF TAPE

SL-1 NC-166/1

Time: 5:15 a.m. CDT, 145:10:15 GMT

5/25/73

PAO This is Skylab Launch Control, T minus 2 hours 42 minutes and counting, in our countdown for the first manned mission in the Skylab Program. The crew for that mission is now approaching the base of the pad, at pad B, complex 39. They'll go into the elevators at the side of the pad, go up inside the mobil launcher where they will board a second set of elevators, these high speed elevators, which will carry them up to the 320-foot level of the mobil launcher. Two of the crewmen, Command Conrad and Pilot Weitz, will cross the swing arm and enter the spacecraft. Meantime, the Science Pilot, Dr. Kerwin, will stand by in the elevator area at the 320-foot level until his fellow crewmen have entered the spacecraft and are in their couches. As they passed the Launch Control Center, Deke Slayton and Alan Shepard got out of the van, entered a car, and came over to the Launch Control Center. They will observe the rest of the countdown and the launch from the Control Center. Weather continues to look good. We have some rain showers in the area at this time. However, no electrical activity associated with those, and those showers are also expected to dissipate. The pad leader gave an on-the-spot report from the 320-foot level from the white room area where he is and where the closeout team is making ready for the astronauts. He indicated that, looking at the sky there, it looks like they have about a 40 percent cloud cover at this time. Countdown proceeding smoothly, T minus 2 hours 41 minutes and counting, this is Kennedy Launch Control.

END OF TAPE

SL-1 MC167/1

Time: 05:20 a.m. CDT, 145:10:20 GET

5/25/73

PAO This is Skylab Launch Control. T-2 hours 37 minutes and counting. At this time the Commander Pete Conrad has moved across the swing arm with the - at the 320 foot level and is about to enter the command module. With him is the Pilot, Paul Weitz. Doctor Joseph Kerwin is remaining back at the elevator area. He has a seat back there, he can sit down and standby back there while he waits for the other two astronauts to enter the spacecraft. He's being treated to a rather nice sunrise scene this morning. The last astronaut during Apollo 17 who was in his position standing by at the elevator area had quite a dramatic night scene. That was Ron Evans on the Apollo 17 launch which was a night launch. At this time the Commander is just now entering the spacecraft. Count continuing to move along well. T-2 hours 36 minutes and counting. This is Kennedy Launch Control.

END OF TAPE

SL-1 MC-106/1

Time: 05:25 a.m. CDT, 145:10:25 GET
5/25/73

PAO. This is Skylab Launch Control, T minus 2 hours 32 minutes and counting in our countdown for the first manned mission in the Skylab program. Astronaut Pete Conrad has now moved into the center and over to the left hand couch which he will occupy during the launch phase of the mission. He's now being strapped down into that couch. Hank Hartsfield, the astronaut member of the support team, is in the command module assisting him in, as is one of the suit technicians. As he hooked up his communications, he made a communications check with the pad leader and also with the spacecraft test conductor, Bob Reed. After a few pleasant good mornings, Bob asked him how the handy man is doing today in obvious reference to the tasks ahead of Pete in the little repair job they have on the Skylab vehicle. After that Pete asked him, "Are you guys going to blow the rest of the clouds out of here by 9 a.m.?" To which Reed replied, "What we don't blow out, you guys will." Standing by in the white room is the pilot for the mission, Paul Weitz. He will be the next one to enter the spacecraft. He'll enter on to the center couch, move over to the right hand couch. Dr. Kerwin still standing by in the elevator area at this time. Now T minus 2 hours 31 minutes and counting, this is Kennedy Launch Control.

END OF TAPE

SL-1 NC-169/1

Time: 05:32 a.m. CDT, 145:10:32 GET

5/25/73

PAO. This is Skylab Launch Control; we're now T minus 2 hours 25 minutes and counting. The pilot now in position, and science pilot Dr. Joseph Kerwin has now come across the swing arm and is about to enter the spacecraft. He is the last of the three crewmen to enter the spacecraft. Still in the spacecraft with the three crewmen is Hank Hartsfield, the astronaut member of the closeout crew. He'll remain in there until the three men are firmly positioned in their couches and some switch checks are made. The procedure for the men as they enter are to remove the boot protectors that they have on the boots of their space suit. They are then assisted into their couch where they connect to their communications and make several switch checks. They then remove the gas connector plugs from their suits, and this is the plug which they use to plug in the oxygen system in the spacecraft. They then connect that oxygen system, turn off the portable oxygen ventilator, which is what they have been breathing on up to this point since they have been suited, disconnect the POV hose and that ventilator is removed then from the spacecraft. There is also a plastic helmet protector over their space suits. That helmet protector is removed, also then moved out of the spacecraft. The crewman is then positioned firmly into his couch. He is strapped in with restraint harnesses similar to an aircraft. And he has a life vest on, and that is properly positioned. After this procedure is completed, he goes through several switch checks and communications checks. These all have been completed now with the three crewmen. Our countdown continues to move along smoothly. T minus 2 hours 24 minutes and counting, this is Kennedy Launch Control.

END OF TAPE

SL-1 MC170/1

Time: 06:02 a.m. CDT, 145:11:02 GMT

5/25/73

PAO This is Skylab Launch Control. T-1 hour 55 minutes and counting in this, the first manned mission in the Skylab Program. At this time the hatch has been closed on the command module. Cabin purge and leak checks underway. And all continuing to move along smoothly. To recap the evening's activities, the loading of cryogenics, that's liquid oxygen and liquid hydrogen aboard the vehicle, were moved up to give some last minute stowage time. The loading of cryogenics went very smoothly; it was finished at 12:45 a.m. this morning. The last equipment to be stowed aboard the command module (this was the SEVA sail and the parasol, two of the thermal shields) arrived at the pad at 2:10 a.m. this morning. These were stowed with some other items. The stowage was completed at 4:20 a.m. Following stowage, the couch, which had been removed to assist with the stowage, was re-installed. This was the center couch occupied by the Science Pilot Doctor Kerwin. The flight crew was alerted at 3:45 this morning. They had a brief physical after that. Then had breakfast with Donald K. Slayton and Alan Shepard. They had the traditional breakfast of steak and eggs and orange juice. We had a 1 hour and 13 minute plan hold period at the 3 hour and 30 minute mark. This is planned in the countdown to take care of any problems which might come up during cryogenic loading. The flight crew departed the Manned Spacecraft Operations Building where the crew quarters are and where they suited up this morning at 5:55 a.m.. It's about a 7-mile ride to the pad, takes a little over 20 minutes to get there. The first crew member to enter the spacecraft was the crew commander, Pete Conrad. We logged him aboard the spacecraft at 6:22 a.m. or T-2 hours and 36 minutes in the count. He was followed by Pilot Paul Weitz at T-2 hours 31 minutes, this is 6:27 a.m. The Science Pilot Dr. Joseph Kerwin stood by in the elevator area while his two comrades entered the spacecraft. When they were into their couches, Kerwin came across the swing arm at the 320-foot level and was the final astronaut to enter the spacecraft. He entered at T-2 hours 24 minutes. The hatch was closed just a short time ago at 6:50, and the cabin leak and purge - purge and leak checks were started. The countdown continuing to move along smoothly at this time. T-1 hour 53 minutes and counting. This is Kennedy Launch Control.

END OF TAPE